

Email Report, Meeting 08/04/2013

There were just 9 members at the Woodfields Bowls Club meeting with apologies received from Sylvia Downs, Marian Brown, Peter Filby, Joyce Kay, John Haseltine and Pam Webb. We welcomed Margery Brown and Bryan Hilton for the first time.

Agony Corner:

A couple of things arising from the last meeting....

1) Setting up a tablet computer to easily access all the files and programmes on a PC.....

- Not yet resolved
- Further attempts will be made and discussed again at the next meeting.

2) 'I have the 'SoftMaker' alternative to Microsoft Office. Have been supplied with a CD which includes the Android set up file, but cannot run a CD on my tablet...'

- No information received as to whether the solutions recommended last month were successful or not.

3) 'Several of my contacts have reported to me that they've received an email from me asking for financial help because 'I'm stranded in Manila!!'

- Hacking issue now resolved

4) 'Why am I getting several "MAILER-DAEMON" email failures every day of messages which I have not sent?'

- Following the procedures outlined in last month's email, this also is now resolved.

5) 'I'm not having much success in setting up Wordpress (last month's topic). I've registered and been 'welcomed' but I don't seem to be able to get any further'.

- In the presentation there are links to helpful information, e.g. <http://en.support.wordpress.com/using-wordpress-to-create-a-website/> in Wordpress itself and <http://videos.wpbeginner.com/>
- In this latter there are 17 instructional videos, starting from the very basics. You need to set up a free account to access these.
- You can always try 'Instant Wordpress' first; this is a stand alone program with all the functionality of Wordpress but not connected online so you can experiment as much as you like without the worry of publishing before you're ready, <http://www.instantwp.com/>

With no further problems arising, we moved on....

Topic for the day:-

Another look at useful web sites. John Haseltine had volunteered to run this session using his T Mobile Mifi pointer to connect to the internet. Unfortunately, due to urgent family issues, he could not stay. He did however leave us with the pointer and we able to easily connect on 2 laptops, a tablet and a mobile phone.

The gadget obviously lives up to it's promise and it's of interest to know that 24 hours access cost just £2.00.

To look at the sites we connected a new Windows 8 laptop with touch screen (Asus Vivo book) to the projector. Once again we had some surprises at the variety of sites that had attracted members' attention:-

- <http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/shopping/free-office-software> : Most of our members regularly use the moneysaving expert web site. This is a page showing an enormous range of free software under several

different categories e.g. Office suite alternatives, Utilities ,Image & photo editing, Desktop publishing, and Audio & video Communication tools. There is also a link to another page devoted to Antivirus and other security software.

- <http://ninite.com/> : This site was discovered following a link in the above. Again free software but here you just tick the boxes of the programmes you require then 'Install' at the bottom of the page and all are installed together. It's also claimed that the programme strips out any non essential tool bars, add on and the like. There is also an option for automatic updates of any of the programmes you select.
- <http://dana.org/brainweek/resources/downloads/> : The Dana Alliance is devoted to all aspects of research into the functioning of the brain. This page contains a link to a downloadable pdf entitled 'Staying Sharp'. This is essentially a puzzle book of wordsearches and quizzes all related to various activities of the brain so it's entertaining and instructional at the same time (plus, it has the answers at the end!)
- <http://www.thegreatbrainexperiment.com/> : This is a collaborative venture between Dan and The Welcome Foundation. *Only applicable to tablets and phones*, this is a mass experiment where you can take part in puzzles then compare your performance with that of thousands of others. We had a demo of this which kept a couple of our members occupied for quite a while!
- <http://www.bing.com/maps/> : This is a 'Bing' (Microsoft) alternative to Google maps.
- <http://www.eadt.co.uk/home> : A free online version of the East Anglian daily times. Our member keeps a regular (macabre?) eye on...
- http://www.familynotices24.co.uk/browse?s_source=arsf_edt;type=all_memorial : The EADT death notices!
- <http://www.punchbowlbattisford.co.uk/> : Having closed in 2009, the Punch Bowl in Battisford re-opened as a Community Inn in 2011 following extensive work by local volunteers. We explored the site which covers much more than just the pub information. The Community, Pub Walks and FAQ pages are particularly interesting. It's also worth noting that the whole site was created for free using 'weebly', <http://www.weebly.com/>.
- <http://www.youtube.com/> : A favourite time waster which can be both entertaining and educational. We were guided to a fascinating video of the Chinese State Ballet Company performing Swan Lake... <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8UnC8nLAao> quite amazing!
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/> : One of the largest uk sites. Your first stop for up-to-date news. Scroll to the bottom of the Home screen for links to all the topics of interest, Food, Science, Nature and much, much more. For a weekly technology 'fix' www.bbc.uk/click is always worth a look.
- <http://www.xe.com/> : Compare money rates around the world.
- <http://www.espaces.co.uk/> : The only place you need to visit if you requires a spare for almost anything. The site is very easy to navigate; on the tab bar just hover the mouse over the type of spare you are looking for and you'll see a dropdown menu linking to all the appropriate pages. Just follow the links and pictures to find what you want. A useful addition is the 'Advice Centre' where you can find hints, tips and videos covering a multitude of topics.
- <http://www.stumbleupon.com/> : We didn't have time to explore this in detail but it's one you shouldn't miss!! Just register for a free account and you will be presented with a page of tick boxes on all possible subject groups. Just select the kinds of things you are interested in (eg, Music, Photography, Computing etc, as many or as few as you like) and submit. The site then collects together the best sites it can find covering these topics. You will also receive regular emails with a new selection to explore. One site I was led to and of use to us all is <http://inpics.net/> which has free, picture tutorials on all the MS Office programmes and much more.

Next Meeting:-

Normal schedule. **Wednesday 8th May, 2013, 1.30pm** at Stowupland High School.

Topic for the day:-

Clive Herrod will be giving us his insight into '**Dragon Naturally Speaking**'.

If you are not familiar with this product, 'Dragon Naturally Speaking' is a speech recognition software package developed and sold by Nuance Communications for Windows personal computers. The user is able to dictate and have speech transcribed as written text - plus a lot more.

This should be a very interesting topic for us and I'm grateful to Clive for volunteering.